

❖ 1897. ❖

DR. EDWARD GAYLOR'S
TWENTY-FOURTH
ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE

Ripley Urban District Council,

From January 1st, 1897, to December 31st, 1897.

RIPLBY :

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TO THE

Ripley Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have now to submit to you my twenty-fourth Annual Report dealing with the vital statistics and general Sanitary condition of the District.

I am glad to say it will be found to be fairly satisfactory, take it all round, though, of course, we have by no means perfected all our Sanitary arrangements. We shall see as we go on, that a very large amount of good work has been done during the year 1897.

Although we have had a partial epidemic of Scarlet Fever, the Zymotic death rate is less than for 1896.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The Council adopted the above Act in 1892, and the following shows the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified in each year :

1892	11	(for half the year from July)
1893	41	Marehay and Street Lane Epidemic
1894	25	
1895	47	Small Pox at Ripley
1896	37	
1897	81	Scarlet Fever Epidemic

The following were the Diseases notified during 1897 :—

Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	55
Diphtheria	-	-	-	3
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	8
Puerperal Fever	-	-	-	3
Erysipelas	-	-	-	12
Total				81

Out of this number there were six deaths, viz., four from Scarlet Fever and two from Puerperal Fever.

Those notifications were distributed over your District as follows :—

Ripley	-	-	-	62
Marehay	-	-	-	11
Lower Hartshay	-	-	-	2
Butterley Park	-	-	-	2
Waingroves	-	-	-	4
Total				81

Street Lane and Upper Hartshay were free from any notifiable disease.

It may be useful to put here the names of the diseases which are notifiable under the Act :—Small Pox, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Membranous Croup, Typhoid Fever, Puerperal Fever, Cholera, Erysipelas.

It will be noticed that Measles, Whooping Cough, and Diarrhoea are not notifiable.

The infectious diseases were notified in the following months of the year :—

January	-	-	3
February	-	-	4
March	-	-	8
April	-	-	6
May	-	-	10
June	-	-	4
July	-	-	5
August	-	-	11
September	-	-	9
October	-	-	1
November	-	-	11
December	-	-	9
Total			81

SMALL POX.

Since 1895 we have had no cases of this disease, and if we had we are quite prepared to deal with it promptly. Our Hospital Tents and

their fittings are all stored for any future outbreak, and could be erected at a suitable spot miles away from the District at a few hours' notice. So there would be no more timid objections against the site chosen for the purpose.

It is to be hoped the forthcoming Vaccination Act may be such as will eventually eradicate this foul disease, which some persons prefer to risk having rather than submit to the only prophylactic, viz., vaccination. And while we have such misguided people in the country, so long will Small Pox exist amongst us somewhere or other.

The recent Report of the Royal Commission on Vaccination has in many instances convinced the opponents of its great efficacy as a preventive of the disease.

Sanitary work may have its own peculiar effect, and it would be foolish to neglect such precautions, but the one thing to rely upon is vaccination properly and intelligently performed in infancy and adult life.

SCARLET FEVER.

The first case of this disease occurred at Marchay, and was that of a married woman, who was nursing her baby of six weeks old at the time; but this baby and another child two years old both escaped the disease, though it was a severe case.

At the Hillocks several cases occurred of a very mild character. The fatal cases occurred at Lowe's Hill, Back Lane, and Cromford Road.

At Peas Hill, the cases there were aggravated by the absence of any main sewerage or scavenging. The supply of water here was the rainfall treasured up in badly-constructed tanks, and the water polluted by the leakage of house drains and manure put on the gardens.

At Waingroves, the common privy was used for tool-house and all sorts of other purposes, and was in a disgusting condition. There were no ashpits, and all the surroundings were very bad.

At Lowe's Hill, was a terrace of six houses. All had open ashpits close to the doors, and drinking water from a pump close by.

On Cromford Road, quite recently built property had the old-fashioned and useless D traps to the newly-made drains, and the yard near the door smelt abominably. Twice children had the disease here, and one died.

At Crossley Street and Church Street mild cases existed.

In Wood Street, a large open ashpit and pig-sty with open cesspit made it a very nasty place, but the case was a mild one.

Several cases occurred in Alfred Street, where there were open ashpits, and in some places bad water was drunk from pumps or well on premises.

At Butterley Hill, open privies and defective drains were noticed.

At Hammersmith, the disease prevailed somewhat largely, and as the children from here attend school at Pentrich, and the disease began to show itself in that Parish, it was deemed advisable to exclude children from Hammersmith for a month or six weeks; and this proved a very efficient remedy. The water supply is from Car Wood.

In one of the cases in Crossley Street, the privy had no door to it, and was also used as a coal-house. All these ashpits here are large, and hold too great a quantity of refuse.

The cases at Greenwich were principally in the Brickyard, which requires a regular overhauling—large open cesspool privies used as wash-houses, &c.

At Butterley Park, there was an open ashpit, stopped-up drain, and the inner wall of a stable formed the inner wall of a pantry where the food was kept, and, as a consequence, the food wouldn't keep good very long.

At Chadwick Grave is a row of houses with no proper water supply. Measles as well as Scarlet Fever existed here. The inhabitants drink rain-water, and one of the tenants keeps pigeons. There is no drainage at all. Slops are thrown all over the garden and over the wall into the field adjoining.

Some cases occurred also at Bamford Street, on almost new property. They had wells in the garden with the old dry brick lining and not properly protected. The new water supply should be taken here.

In Oxford Street, a case occurred where there was a large open ash-pit in connection with the privy cesspit.

A case at Marehay, they complained of the water from a pump on premises next door.

DIPHTHERIA.

Three cases of this disease occurred at High Street, Greenwich, and Peas Hill. The first case was at High Street, Ripley, at a newly-erected hotel, where I could find no insanitary conditions, except a drain in the cellar, which ought not to be, as it ventilates the main sewer, and the gas enters the house and ascends to the warm rooms, where it would be inhaled. The disease has existed here twice this year, and from what I gather the patient took the same disease before she came to Ripley on one occasion.

The Peas Hill case was that of a man who lived in one of four houses in a block. The conditions here are quite sufficient to produce the disease. No main sewer, no water supply, house drains conducted in a badly-constructed cesspool in the gardens.

The Greenwich case was a boy six years of age. I found nothing to account for it, except that the sink-stone drain was connected with the main sewer, and this was ordered to be disconnected.

Whatever mystery may surround the true cause of this disease, there can be no doubt conditions such as I have mentioned as existing in these places must have some influence in forming a suitable soil, so to speak, for the microbe of the disease to locate itself there.

TYPHOID FEVER.

The first case occurred at the Hillocks, at a house where the yard was used by a marine store dealer, and a more disgusting condition of things than I saw here cannot be imagined. Beside having no ashpit at all, the privy was old and dilapidated, and there was a cesspool full of filth, though the pig had been killed three months before. There were four cases of Typhoid in this house within six weeks, the ages being as follows, in the order of their attack:—4, 24, 3, and 6 years respectively.

The case in Wellington Street was a female, 40 years. The sink-stone in the kitchen was connected with the main sewer.

The Peas Hill case was a boy of seven years of age. I have described the condition of things here before, and I can only add that it is adapted to be the home of Typhoid Fever in its present condition.

A case at Greenwich was a woman of 29 years of age, who was removed to the Derby Royal Infirmary.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

Three cases of this disease occurred. The first case occurred at the Old Station Road. A woman, 34 years, attended by midwife on February 6th. Medical attendance was called in on the 11th, and the woman died on the 24th. There was nothing on the premises which might account for the disease.

The next case was at Greenwich, a young woman, 23 years, attended by a midwife on February 17th. Medical aid called on the 28th, and poor woman died on March 5th.

The third case was also on Old Station Road. A woman, 28 years, attended by midwife on November 9th, and died five or six days afterwards. The baby also died but a few hours previously; and in consequence of no medical certificate being forthcoming, an inquest was held, and, though three persons died of Puerperal Fever, this case is entered as an inquest case.

As this class of disease is really a septicemia—a blood poison peculiarly dangerous to lying-in women—I warned the midwives that they would be held responsible for any other cases which might happen under their attendance for about eight weeks, as they could and would carry the infection with them. Medical men who have those cases are very careful and particular as to bathing, change of clothing, disinfection, &c., which could not be done by midwives.

ERYSIPELAS.

Twelve cases of this disease were notified, but I have no remarks to offer respecting them.

Though it is one of the notifiable diseases under the Act, I have never yet seen any advantage in it. The cases reported to me were all of the ordinary kind, and had nothing of a distinctive character about them. Possibly the disease may be of a dangerously infective character, in the midst of thickly-populated Districts, but it is not so in your District.

You have not the power to take this disease out of the Act, hence it is incumbent upon the medical profession to notify it.

Those infectious diseases which I have enlarged upon have all been visited, and generally Inspector Lomas has accompanied me. Small nuisances are at once attended to, and printed instructions as to management and disinfection are left at the house, with, of course, my own verbal advice added.

TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.

Of these 81 cases, 25 were under the age of 5 years, which is about 30 per cent, and 56 were persons of all ages above 5 years, or about 69 per cent.

Of these 81 only six persons died, four from Scarlet Fever and two from Puerperal Fever. This is at the rate of .52 per 1000, or about 7 per cent.

It will be noticed that no deaths occurred from Typhoid Fever, Diphtheria, or Erysipelas.

MEASLES.

This disease is responsible for six deaths. Five occurred at Ripley and one at Lower Hartshay.

The disease was prevalent in January, February, and August. I have no means of knowing how many children had the disease, but doubtless a very large number. People think so little of it as to be quite careless about it, though I shall show below what a very dangerous disease it is.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

Three deaths were registered from this disease. It prevailed throughout the District in the first and last quarters of the year.

Deaths from this class of diseases in England and Wales in 1897 :—

Small Pox	-	-	-	25
Measles	-	-	-	12,456
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	4,492
Diphtheria	-	-	-	7,461
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	10,887
Fevers, principally Typhoid	-	-	-	4,873
Diarrhoea	-	-	-	26,857

This gives a grand total of 67,051 from these Zymotic Diseases, and is equal to a rate of 2.15 per 1000 persons living.

In Ripley the rate for the same class of disease is 1.59 per 1000.

Measles and Whooping Cough, it will be seen, are responsible for nearly Twenty-Three Thousand Deaths, all in 1897.

DIARRHŒA.

The only death from this disease was that of a child three weeks old, and had no reference to sanitary matters. It seemed to be a case of debility from birth.

PHTHISIS.

Five deaths were registered from this disease, which is now gradually being recognised as an infectious disease, and of a preventible character. The disease is due to a Bacillus which has gained access to the body, either by the food or by inhalation.

This is why milk may produce the disease through being the product of a tuberculous cow, so that it should always be boiled before being drank. The taste may not be quite so agreeable, but one soon gets accustomed to it.

It is to be hoped that some Law dealing with tuberculous animals will be in force before very long, so that the public may be protected from eating tuberculous meat, which is a very fertile source in the production of Phthisis, or so-called Consumption of the Lungs.

It has been said that if you take the best 40 years of a working life, which is from 15 years to 55 years, that one death out of every four is due to this disease. It kills more persons than Small Pox, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Typhoid Fever, put together.

Well-ventilated rooms, plenty of fresh air, cleanliness, and the destruction of the sputa, or phlegm, by burning on the fire, separation of the sick from the healthy, are some of the best measures to arrest the progress of this dreadful scourge of mankind.

BRONCHITIS AND PNEUMONIA.

35 deaths from these diseases shows what a large part they play in the general death roll. 26 of the above were children of tender years—helpless creatures exclusively under the control of parents and others. It is to be feared that exposure to cold, damp play-yards or ground, insufficient clothing, and general neglect, are responsible for this large mortality.

INQUEST CASES.

Female, 70 years, Suddenly, "Natural Causes"
 Female, 63 years, Suddenly, "Natural Causes"
 Male, 19 years, Run Over by Railway Trucks
 Male, 30 years, Run Over by Railway Trucks
 Male, 16 years, Drowned whilst Bathing
 Female, 28 years, Septicemia (Child-Birth)
 Female, 48 years, Suddenly, "Natural Causes"
 Male, 62 years, Heart Disease

UNCERTIFIED DEATHS.

Male, 3 hours, Premature Birth
 Male, 8 hours, Premature Birth
 Female, 1 month, Convulsions
 Male, 52 years, Heart Disease
 Female, 5 days, Convulsions
 Male, 9 days, Premature Birth
 Female, 10 months, Convulsions

Of course these are the *presumed* causes of death, as no doctor saw the cases.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

This we arrive at by the total number of births during the year 1897, measured by the number of deaths of infants under one year of age. At Ripley, in 1895 the rate was 151 per 1000. In 1896 it was 126 per 1000. In 1897 it is 158 per 1000. In all England and Wales it is 156 per 1000. As an average, in other words, infant deaths under one year old form 24 per cent of the whole number of all ages in England and Wales. In Ripley, for 1897, it is no less than 56 per cent. of the total deaths.

Children of the lower classes always show a higher death rate than those of the upper classes. This is due to ignorance, neglect, taking no precaution against infectious diseases, gossiping with children in their arms where Measles, Whooping Cough, and Scarlet Fever exists, exposure to cold, want of pure fresh air, and improper clothing.

DEATHS AT ALL AGES.

There are 71 male deaths and 79 female deaths, making a total of 150. ~~84~~ of this number of both sexes died before they had reached the fifth year of their age; in fact, the mean average duration of life for those 84 children was only ten months. 30 aged people had an average life of 75 years, and the remainder (36) who died between the ages of 5 years and 65 years had a mean life of 42 years.

The deaths were registered in the following quarters of the year :—

March Quarter	-	-	40
June Quarter	-	-	39
September Quarter	-	-	29
December Quarter	-	-	42
Total	-	-	150

Those deaths occurred in the following parts of the District :—

Ripley	-	-	128
Lower Hartshay	-	-	6
Marehay	-	-	4
Street Lane	-	-	4
Waingroves	-	-	8
Total	-	-	150

TABLE I.
R I P L E Y U R B A N D I S T R I C T .
CAUSES OF DEATH.

From January 1st, 1897, to December 31st, 1897.

Diseases.	Under five years of age	Above five years of age	Total.
Scarlet Fever	3	1	4
Puerperal Fever		2	2
Measles... ..	5	1	6
Whooping Cough	3		3
Diarrhœa.....	1		1
Cancer		4	4
Phthisis	1	4	5
Other Tubercular Diseases	7	1	8
Influenza		1	1
Brain Diseases.....	2		2
Apoplexy		7	7
Convulsions	10		10
Spinal Disease.....	1		1
Heart Disease	1	8	9
Bronchitis	26	9	35
Teething	7		7
Disease of Stomach.....	1		1
Disease of Bowels	2	1	3
Disease of Kidneys.....		1	1
Diabetes		1	1
Child Birth		1	1
Premature Birth	3		3
Debility	5		5
Old Age		15	15
Inquests		8	8
Uncertified	6	1	7
Totals.....	84	66	150

Total death rate for 1897, 14·91 per 1000. Mean death rate for 25 years, 14·23 per 1000. The death rate for England and Wales for 1897 is 17·4 per 1000.

Tables A and B of the Local Government Board will be found at the end of this Report.

THE POPULATION.

The population is estimated by the increase of births over the number of deaths, and I estimate the population of your District on the 31st day of December, 1897, to be 10,058.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 1897.

Deaths under 1 year of age	57	5.56 per 1000, or 38 per cent.		
" 5 "	84	8.35	"	56
5 and under 25 "	10	.99	"	6
25 " 65 "	26	2.58	"	17
65 years, and upwards	30	2.98	"	20
Zymotic Diseases	16	1.59	"	10
Non-Notifiable Diseases	10	.99	"	6
Phthisis	5	.49	"	3
Bronchitis	35	3.47	"	23
Heart Diseases	9	.89	"	6
Male Deaths	71	7.05	"	47
Female Deaths	79	7.85	"	79

BIRTHS.

194 boys and 155 girls were born during the year 1897, making a total of 349.

These births were registered in the following Quarters :—

March Quarter	-	-	76
June Quarter	-	-	99
September Quarter	-	-	90
December Quarter	-	-	84
Total	-	-	349

The total birth rate for your District in 1897 is 35.61 per 1000. The birth rate of England and Wales for 1897 is 29.7 per 1000. The mean birth rate for Ripley District for the past 24 years is 31.32 per 1000. The natural increase of the population of the District in 1897 is 199 persons.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.

Colonel Slack, the Local Government Board Inspector, held an enquiry relative to the water supply in the outlying Districts, and in a short time, it is hoped, they will have a proper supply of good water: it is very much wanted. I am informed that the supply now is ample, and it is hoped there will be no more murmurs about a deficiency of water.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

This is now nearing its completion, and will probably be ready to receive patients about June next. The joint Committee, consisting of representatives for Alfreton, Belper, Heage, Ripley, and Wirksworth,

meet at intervals, and it is satisfactory to know the Hospital will soon be an accomplished fact, after many years' agitation and preparation.

SCAVENGING.

In order to show the great necessity there was for a proper system of scavenging, I give you here the details of the work done in the No. 1 District :

Closets	-	-	-	488
Pans or Buckets	-	-	-	6784
Loads Removed	-	-	-	873
Notices Served	-	-	-	382

No. 2 District :

Closets	-	-	-	787
Pans or Buckets	-	-	-	5762
Loads Removed	-	-	-	1087
Notices Served	-	-	-	302

I am glad to know that the same thing has been commenced in the other parts of the District. In Marehay and Street Lane Ward there are 249 houses. At Waingroves and Peas Hill there are 150 houses. And in Upper and Lower Hartshay there are 56 houses. So that till the latter end of 1897 no scavenging had been done in the case of about 450 houses in the District.

There can be no doubt that this system will better the health of the District, and will give that large number of persons who like to revel in dirt a practical lesson in cleanliness.

I congratulate the District Council on their administrative judgment.

ACTS OF PARLIAMENT ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL.

Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890 ; Parts 2 and 3 of the Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1890 : The Private Street Works Act, 1892 ; The Baths and Washhouses Act. These are, of course, in addition to The Notification of Infectious Diseases Act, and has been already referred to.

GENERAL INSPECTION.

This has been regularly carried out, as you will know by my Monthly and Quarterly Reports. Inspector Lomas very frequently accompanies me, and I would take this opportunity of testifying to the good work he is doing.

I find an enormous number of small nuisances, which I complain of when visiting the various localities, which never come before you at all, but which get dealt with by conversation and advice with the owner or occupier, as the case may be ; and I am convinced the scavenging is very much better done than it used to be.

Inspector Lomas commenced his duties about the middle of May, 1897, and the record below is work done from that time under the respective headings. I have no record of what was done in the earlier part of the year, on account of the death of your late Inspector. As before stated, this list takes no cognisance of small details of nuisances.

LODGING-HOUSES.—There are two licensed houses, and they have been visited 20 times, and 6 nuisances have been abated there.

DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS number about 27, and 10 visits have been paid them, with 4 nuisances abated.

COWSHEDS are about 27, and these have been visited 10 times.

BAKEHOUSES number 12, and have been visited 10 times.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES, 19, have received 10 visits.

PRIVIES AND ASHPITS number about 850, and of course are frequently seen, on account of the scavenging and my own visits in infectious disease cases.

DEPOSITS OF MANURE AND REFUSE have been 18. 8 have been entirely removed and the remainder dealt with satisfactorily.

DEFECTIVE DRAINAGE, TRAPS, &C., have been dealt with.

PIGSTYS are about 60 in number, and 12 have been dealt with.

OFFENSIVE TRADES, SMOKE NUISANCES, and other small nuisances to the number of about 100, have been dealt with, in addition to those mentioned above.

Inspector Lomas another year will get to know the *exact number* of water closets in the District, also the number of pan closets and pigstys. The Inspector has made one seizure of fish in your ordinary market.

THE CEMETERY.

I have inspected, by order of the Home Secretary, through Dr. Hoffman, the Medical Inspector, the proposed addition to your Cemetery, and sent a Report in to the Clerk to the Ripley Burial Board, wherein I expressed my approval of the ground.

SEWERING.

There are several parts of the District where no sewers exist, and I would suggest the necessary work might be done by degrees, if the expenses of the new water supply render it inadvisable to add largely to the present burdens of the ratepayers.

This, Gentlemen, completes my Report for the year 1897. There is no doubt about an improvement in the District since 1897. The

death rate is satisfactory, but infant mortality and the deaths under five years *is most unsatisfactory*.

I beg to recognise the assistance I receive from the Council, Clerk, and Inspector Lomas, and I hope I may still deserve a continuance of your confidence, by the way the duties of Medical Officer of Health are performed by

Your obedient servant,

EDWARD GAYLOR,

Fellow of the Royal Institute of Public Health
&c., &c.

Belper, March 4th, 1897.

(A)

COUNTY OF DERBY.

Table of DEATHS during the year 1897, in the Urban Sanitary District of Ripley, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Area in Acres, 4026. Population, 1891, 7276. Estimated 1897, 10,058.

Medical Officer of Health, EDWARD GAYLOR.

Date, March 4th, 1898.

Deaths from all Causes at subjoined Ages.

At all Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 Year and under 5	5 Years and under 15	15 Years and under 25	25 Years and under 65	65 and upwards.
150	57	27	4	6	26	30

Mortality from subjoined Causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under Five Years of Age.

Diseases.	Under Five Years of Age.	Over Five Years of Age.
Scarlatina	3	1
Puerperal Fever.....		2
Measles	5	1
Whooping Cough	3	
Diarrhoea and Dysentery.....	1	
Phthisis	1	4
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy	26	9
Heart Disease	1	8
Injuries		3
All other Diseases.....	44	38
Total	84	66

EDWARD GAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

(B) COUNTY OF DERBY.

Table of POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1897, in the Urban Sanitary District of Ripley; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Population of all Ages.

Census, 1891	-	-	-	-	7276
Estimated to middle of 1898	-	-	-	-	9930
Registered Births	-	-	-	-	359

New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.

Diseases.	Under Five Years of Age.	Over Five Years of Age.
Scarlatina	23	32
Diphtheria.....		3
Enteric or Typhoid Fever.....	2	6
Puerperal Fever.....		3
Erysipelas		12
Total	25	56

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District.—Yes.

Since when?—1892.

Locality of Isolation Hospital.—Hospital being erected at Belper.

EDWARD GAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health,

Alfreton Urban, Belper Rural, & Ripley Urban
Districts.

